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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

MISSIONS

Protestant Episcopal Church Co-operates on Missions in Latin America

It is significant that at the May meeting of the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal church a resolution was passed to send official representation to the coming missionary conference at Panama. The resolution, according to the *Missionary Review of the World* (July, 1915) was as follows:

That the Board of Missions, having learned of the plan to hold a conference in Panama, in 1916, on Missionary work in Latin America, on the same general lines as the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910, will arrange to send delegates to the conference, and authorize any of its officers who may be asked to do so to serve upon committees in connection with the conference, and to take such steps in preparatory work as they may deem desirable: provided, that whatever notice or invitation is sent to any Christian body shall be presented to every Commission having work in Latin America.

This resolution is increasingly significant, following as it does, the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury on the Kikuyu conference controversy in the Church of England.

Government Grants to Canadian Foreign Missions

If one may be allowed to judge from the discussion carried on in the *Canadian Baptist* recently, the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec are considerably disturbed over the announcement of Dr. J. G. Brown that government grants are being accepted in support of schools founded by Baptist missionaries in India. It appears that the actual situation faced by the missionaries in pursuing their tasks has led them to conclude that government grants are desirable, and that the Canadian Board has acquiesced

in this opinion. But all Baptists in Canada are not able to believe the situation warrants the Foreign Mission Board in sacrificing the Baptist principle of separation of church and state, and a spirited opposition is being made through the columns of the *Canadian Baptist*. The Mission Board, however, has pointed out that the separation of church and state ought not to be pressed unduly in India when Canadian Baptists themselves pay no taxes on church property. In any case, the schools in question are secular and have little to do with religious work.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the China Inland Mission

Rev. Henry W. Frost, Director for North America, writing in the July number of the *Missionary Review of the World*, gives an interesting survey of the remarkable growth of the China Inland Mission. The mission was founded by Rev. J. Hudson Taylor in 1865 and on May 26 of the next year with a party of fifteen missionaries he set sail for Shanghai. The organization was formed by Mr. Taylor for two reasons: first, because he was in the grip of the conviction that Christian missions ought to be planted in the interior of China; secondly, because after interviewing the great denominational societies of England he realized that those societies were already overburdened. Accordingly, Mr. Taylor saw no alternative between giving up his conviction and beginning a new work. He went forward with the new work.

The executive of the mission is a directorate, with a central general director, and with other directors in the homelands and in China, each representing the general director in his particular geographical sphere. The mission is undenominational in the sense

that it is not ecclesiastical. It is inter-denominational in the sense that it is a voluntary union of the members of many ecclesiastical bodies. It is international, since it has, besides its common work in China, home centers in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States. The mission holds that its prime obligation is the evangelization of China, but even so it finds a large place for medical work and has nine hospitals, sixty-eight dispensaries, twenty-seven physicians, and a considerable number of trained nurses. The China Inland Mission has now grown to include 227 stations, 1,100 out-stations, 1,063 missionaries, 2,765 native helpers, 35,000 communicants, and 754 churches. Since the beginning there have been 50,771 baptisms, and during the year 1915 there have been 5,017 baptisms. The annual income has grown to about \$350,000 and the total income during these fifty years has amounted to about \$10,000,000.

Moslem Massacre of Christians

The horrors reported from the battle-fields of Europe are sickening enough, but in Persia, where the Moslems are spurred on by religious hatred, the atrocities perpetrated are even worse. The *Missionary Review of the World* (July, 1915) has a letter from Robert M. Labaree written in Tabriz, Persia, which tells of the massacre of Armenian and Syrian Christians in Salmas, northwestern Persia. Three months ago the 12,000 Christians of this district were deprived of the protection of the Russian army and 750 males were massacred with all the cruelty that human deviltry could invent. The women of this district were saved from a worse fate by the timely arrival of the Russian army, but elsewhere they were not so fortunate. In the case of the Gulpashan village "the women were given over to the brutish will of their captors. Not a female, from the old women

of seventy years down to the little girls from seven to ten escaped the savage lust of the fiends in human form. None were spared; a fact that proves the crime was not a result of blind passion only, but a deliberate purpose to dishonor all Christian women." These atrocities were perpetuated in regions where the proclamation of the "Jihad" or "Holy War" found an assenting people. A translation of a "Jihad" appeal to the Moslems is given as follows:¹

"Kill them: God will punish them in your hand and put them to shame; and ye will overcome them. He will rejoice the hearts of believers, and take away the wrath from unbelievers."—(Text of the Koran.)

Oh, ye faithful! Although we are summoning you to a jihad, where is your army? What do you wait for? The foe has summoned you on all sides with fire. See the house of God (Mecca), the point toward which all Islam turns; behold the sacred tomb of Mohammed, the object of the gaze of the faithful. Have you considered these matters? By your inaction and silence the enemy is gaining strength. What if these two sacred places should be taken?

How often have the savage Russians, the traitorous English, the Frenchman, born of impure blood yet proud in their baseness, planted their unclean flags upon your pure and holy mountains? How often have they seized you by your lifeless, spiritless feet and hands, and rolled you in the mire? Oh, you poor, helpless people of India, of the Oxus and of the orphan islands, of Tunis, and you wretched tribes of Turkey! Oh, Bokhara and Turkestan, dying under the bloody hand of Russia! Oh, you falling mosques, overturned pulpits, crumbling minarets, the ornaments of the country, from which the voice of God has sounded forth: but where the proclamation of the Unity, which once made the mountains to tremble, is now heard only in whispers!

Go forth, ye Moslems, into the places of blood and groans: there see the ruined countries of Islam, and learn a lesson. Look about you; every day the edifice erected by Islam is being torn down stone by stone. Aside from the

¹ *Missionary Review of the World*, July, 1915, p. 520.

Empire of Turkey, is there any prop left to Islam?

Oh, ye people of the Unity! Read your history! Look at the despised graves of your kings! If you desire honor and glory, houris and damsels, behold all are awaiting you. Eternal joys, the shade of green trees, houris, angels are in the grasp of your sword. Think of these. But if you rather think of earthly things, know that weakness, dishonor, and oppression will surround you in this world like a ring of fire, and in the next world you will be cast out to live in torments. For if you throw down your arms and leave the battlefield you will bring upon your heads bitter anguish. Do you not understand this? You have become slaves of the people of the Cross

Behold! God has bestowed upon you a greater favor. The tears of the faithful for centuries past are bearing fruit. Your enemies are trembling under your hand. Attack them from every side. Whenever you meet them,

kill them. Quicken the failing proclamation of the Unity by the fire of your rifles and cannon, and by the blows of your swords and knives. Cause the minarets and mountains and wildernesses to resound once more with the cry, 'Allah! Allah!'

Jihad! Jihad! Ah, Moslems, blow the trumpet everywhere, Oh, people of the Unity. The great God is ordering you to fight with your foes everywhere. God will put them to shame in your hands; He will give you the victory; He will quench the fire of their hate. Do not forget. God has purchased the souls and the property of the faithful. In exchange he gives you the houris and damsels of heaven."

This religious document of the Moslems is responsible, we are told, for the horrors mentioned above. Yet it promises to the "faithful" the rich reward of Paradise.

And yet Christian nations urged this Holy War of Moslems!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The various plans of accredited and co-ordinated religious instruction of public-school pupils are attracting general attention. Not only will the general plan of week-day religious instruction constitute the theme for the convention of the Religious Education Association next year, but there is already organized under the leadership of the International Sunday School Association a special commission to study the different experiments. The commission expects to proceed on a basis of study and membership as broad as the patronage of the public schools. The most interesting experiments are those in Gary, Indiana, and the numerous schools in Colorado and South Dakota. The different plans are described in a report presented at the Northern Baptist Convention and reprinted as a pamphlet.

The office of the Religious Education Association reports a larger number of

vacancies for directors of religious education in local churches than there are men or women to supply this need. All thoroughly trained directors, graduates from the departments of religious education in the different schools offering this work, have no difficulty in finding suitable places. The churches are insisting, however, on thorough professional training.

It is announced that the World's Sunday School Convention will be held in Tokyo, Japan, next year regardless of the present war situation.

Three days of the important educational congresses at the Panama-Pacific Exposition are to be devoted to the subject of religious education. The meetings of these congresses, which occur from August 16 to September 5, are to be held in the Oakland City Auditorium, and the program for the days August 27-29 has been prepared by